REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 43-76 are pending in the present application, with Claims 1-42 canceled and Claims 43-76 added by the present amendment. Support for this amendment is found in Applicants' originally filed specification (e.g., Figure 30). No new matter is added.

Accordingly, examination of the present application on the merits is believed to be in order. An early and favorable action on the merits is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

 $\begin{array}{c} \text{Customer Number} \\ 22850 \end{array}$

Tel: (703) 413-3000 Fax: (703) 413-2220 (OSMMN 08/03) JJK/MEM/kkn James J. Kulbaski Attorney of Record Registration No. 34,648

Michael Monaco

Registration No. 52,041

I:\ATTY\MM\AMENDMENT\0557\242419_SUPP_PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT_2.DOC